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the hands of merchants, as well as of notaries and bankers, would supersede a vast amount of litigation. The first of these books has its value greatly enhanced by a copious alphabetical index of subjects, and another of the judicial cases cited; and the second has ample and minute indexes, one of them alphabetical.

18.—*The Elements of Drawing; in Three Letters to Beginners.*

By JOHN RUSKIN, M.A. With Illustrations drawn by the Author. New York: Wiley and Halsted. 1857. 12mo. pp. 234.

THE object of this work is to delineate a series of exercises, adapted to cultivate keenness and accuracy of sight and the sense of perspective. Mere manipulation is made secondary to the clear perception and conception of the object to be drawn. To the novice in art such a directory must be invaluable; while to the general reader it is interesting and instructive as a commentary on nature, revealing many features of landscape and its elements which are obvious only to the educated eye, yet which, once suggested, can never be lost from sight. It is pleasant to find that Ruskin at length admits one vulnerable point in Turner.

“Turner, though he was professor of perspective to the Royal Academy, did not know what he professed; and never, as far as I remember, drew a building in true perspective in his life; he drew them only with as much perspective as suited him.”—p. xvi.

19.—*A Manual of Ancient Geography.* By DR. LEONHARD SCHMITZ, F. R. S. E. *With a Map, showing the Retreat of the 10,000 Greeks under Xenophon.* Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea. 1857. 12mo. pp. 428.

THE study of ancient geography is proverbially dry, nor has Dr. Schmitz wholly removed that reproach. But he has lightened it, by inserting, wherever there is room, entertaining and instructive scraps of history. He gives us also a “History of Ancient Geography,” from the mythical age down to 500 A. D., which forms one of the most attractive chapters of the history of opinions. The first book thus occupied, the remaining three treat of Europe, Asia, and Africa, respectively. The several portions of the ancient world are not, however, described with a dead level of dull minuteness; perspective is con-

sulted; regions on which our curiosity has no hold are passed over very cursorily, while the author pauses to recall classical associations with the well-known geographical names, and enters, as regards them, into the details which their relative importance demands and makes appropriate.

In his Preface, Dr. Schmitz refers to Long's *Atlas of Classical Geography*, as "in every respect the best and most accurate that has yet been published in this country" (Great Britain). This *Atlas* was republished by Messrs. Blanchard and Lea in 1856; and, after having had it for several months on our table, we can bear testimony to its fulness, its adaptation to easy reference, and its high style of mechanical execution. We ought to have noticed it when it first appeared; we would now recommend it as an almost essential companion-book to Dr. Schmitz's "Manual," which we believe to be the best work of the kind accessible to American students.

20.—*A Commentary, Critical, Expository, and Practical, on the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, for the Use of Ministers, Theological Students, Private Christians, Bible Classes, and Sabbath Schools.*
By JOHN J. OWEN, D.D. With a Map, Synoptical Index, etc.
New York: Leavitt and Allen. 1857. 12mo. pp. 501.

INTO the mutual relations of the synoptical Gospels, and the questions raised by their correspondences and their discrepancies, Dr. Owen does not enter, and the textual exposition of these books — the least difficult of interpretation in the canon of the New Testament — furnishes no adequate test of his ability as a critic. But the style of this work would prepare us to anticipate his distinguished success in the more arduous labors which await him in the Gospel of John and the Pauline Epistles. Completeness, precision, and conciseness characterize his commentary. On the few passages which can be supposed to refer to disputed dogmas, he accords, as we should expect, with the Trinitarian and Calvinistic interpretation; but, on these, he does not merge the critic in the controversialist, and still less does he obtrude his own peculiar opinions where the text does not demand their expression. His notes are learned, yet without the ostentation of learning, and devout, without the parade of personal feeling. They contain all that the common reader needs, and nearly all that the scholar can furnish, for the elucidation of the text. In thoroughness, in critical impartiality, and in their tokens of profound Biblical scholarship, we